

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD

Wildlife Watering Facility

(Number)

Code 648

DEFINITION

Constructing, improving, or modifying water places for wildlife. (This does not include Ponds, or unmodified Spring Development, Well, Trough or Tank.)

PURPOSES

To provide drinking water for wildlife.

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

This practice applies in areas where new, additional, or improved watering places are needed to increase the range or improve the habitat or distribution of wildlife.

CRITERIA

None identified for this practice standard.

CONSIDERATIONS

Water Quantity

1. Effects on the water budget, especially on volumes and rates of runoff, infiltration, evaporation, transpiration, deep percolation, and ground water recharge.

2. Effects on downstream flows or aquifers that could affect other water uses or users.

Water Quality

1. Effects on erosion and the movement of sediment and soluble and sediment-attached substances that would be carried by runoff.

2. Effects on the movement of dissolved substances to ground water.

3. Effects on wetlands or water-related wildlife habitats.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Spacing

Watering facilities will be located far enough from one another and far enough from any other year-around supply of surface water that they fill a real need and are fully utilized. The number of facilities will not exceed one per 40 acres.

Construction and Development

1. Springs and Seeps

a. Remove loose rock, sediments, logs and vegetation that obstruct the free discharge of an existing spring.

b. Develop a new spring as per Standard 574 "Spring Development." A collection basin will be constructed or installed with the top at ground level. The basin will be lined with rock, concrete or other suitable material.

c. The size of the collection basin will be:

Conservation practice standards are reviewed periodically, and updated if needed. To obtain the current version of this standard, contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Minimum – approximately 1 foot deep
and 2 feet in diameter.

Maximum – approximately 5 feet deep
and 0.25 acre surfaced area.

- d. The basin will be completed with sloping side(s) on at least one side to permit small animals to escape drowning.

2. Pond or Pits

The specifications for the construction of a pond or pit-type Wildlife Watering Facility shall be the same as that for practice specification (378) Pond except as follows:

- a. The minimum size of the water surface area shall be 625 square feet. Maximum surface area is 0.25 acre.
- b. The pond or pit shall have a minimum depth of 3 ½ feet with approximately 3 to 1 side slopes.
- c. The maximum depth of the pond or pit shall be 5 feet.
- d. In relatively impervious soils, the watershed ratio may be as low as 3 to 1. The maximum watershed ratio will be 8 to 1.
- e. Where site conditions make the use of earth moving equipment impractical, pits may be created by blasting, providing the distance from humans, livestock, and improvements is sufficient to insure safety. Someone experienced in the use of explosives should supervise the use of blasting materials. (Natural Resources Conservation Service employees will not participate in placing or detonating charges.)
- f. The area around the pond or pit will be developed in accordance with the specifications for (645) Upland Wildlife Habitat Management.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

An operation and maintenance plan will be developed in keeping with this practice standard.